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single leaf on the hundred or so plants scattered for some distance along the railroad. The top soil had lately been removed by the section hands and these plants were growing on the south side of the track where the sun shone fairly upon them. Could this removal of the soil, and consequent bringing of the scaly bulbs nearer the surface have induced this very premature blooming? Or could any of the readers of the GAZETTE offer any other explanation in connection with the location of the plants? I expect to keep a watch over these plants this spring to see what they do when the ordinary time for blooming comes.

Hastings, Neb.

HARVEY THOMSON.

Solidago erecta PURSH.

The herbarium of the United States National Museum has for distribution a good number of duplicates of the above species, which has recently been reinstated by Dr. Gray [Proc. Am. Acad. XXII, p. 308]. This form, so well represented in the District of Columbia, has been variously referred by Dr. Gray to *S. bicolor* L., var. *concolor* Torr. & Gray, and *S. speciosa* Nutt., var. *angustata* Torr. & Gray, and may have been so distributed from here, but its distinctness from either of these forms has long been recognized by many Washington botanists.

F. H. KNOWLTON.

Assistant Curator Botany, U. S. Nat. Mus.

An aid in description.

In writing out descriptions it is important to have in mind the range of variations in the size of each organ. With microscopic objects this requires great familiarity with the specimens. A single figure, while it may be typical, can not show the range of variation. As an aid in making up descriptions, and to use for reference, tables like the following, which can be quickly made, have been found convenient. The vertical columns show the length in lines of each organ, while the horizontal rows show at a glance the amount of their variation. Other points can, of course, be added on the same plan, and the number of recorded observations be increased as circumstances require.

Muhlenbergia argentea Vasey. Palmer, Mexico, 1885, No. 160.

Lower empty glume.....	1½	1½	1½	1½	1
Upper empty glume.....	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Flowering glume.....	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Palet.....	2	1½	1½	1½	1½
Awn of flowering glume.....	5	5	4	2½	2

A. A. CROZIER.

Dep't Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Exploration of San Domingo.

Baron Eggers has been engaged by the undersigned, and under the patronage of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin, to undertake a journey of botanical research in the higher mountain regions of San Domingo that have not yet been explored. The plants to be collected will be distributed in two series with corresponding numbers. The first series will embrace only such plants as have not already been distributed in Eggers' *Flora Indiv occidentalis exsicc.*, and will cost forty marks per